CAPITOL OFFICE STATE CAPITOL SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 TEL 1916) 651-4018 FAX 1916) 322-3304

DISTRICT OFFICE 5001 CALIFORNIA AVE., ROOM 105 BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309 TEL (661) 323-0443 FAX (661) 323-0446





EIGHTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

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SENATOR
ROY ASHBURN

February 5, 2007

Mr. Lester Snow, Director California Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836, Room 1115-1 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Snow:

The undersigned are writing to express our concerns with the proposal that your staff has recently outlined to provide as much as \$132 million in additional Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) funding for projects through an extended Round 1 funding, rather than beginning with a new Round 2 of funding for the \$190 million that remains in the Proposition 50 IRWMP account. We strongly encourage you to reconsider this course of action.

It is our understanding that your agencies were amenable, during a Town Hall meeting held on July 17, 2006, to complete Round 1 of this Proposition 50 IRWMP funding, and then spend time addressing issues and concerns that many stakeholders expressed during the process, including the issue of "statewide priorities." Many stakeholders were led to believe that, following a revision of the IRWMP funding guidelines, there would be a new round of competition for the remaining \$190 million in the fund.

Your proposal to essentially eliminate Round 2 of the funding process means that many IRWMPs that may not have been sufficiently completed to meet Round 1 deadlines will be left behind from the Proposition 50 opportunities. Many stakeholders have been operating under the premise that there would be two distinct rounds of funding, with any necessary mid-course corrections and adjustments to the guidelines being taken care of in between the funding rounds.

Now, it appears that the rules are being changed. We strongly urge you to reconsider this course of action and remain on track with the process discussed during the Town Hall meeting on July 17th by opening a second round to distribute the remaining \$190 million balance in Prop. 50 funding.

Sincerely,

Senator Roy Ashburn

Senator Dave Cogdill

Assemblymember Nicole Parra Assemblymember Enil Maze	Senator Dean Florez Juan Alambula Assemblymember Juan Arambula Jean Fully Assemblymember Jean Fuller